

CENTER SCENE



The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter

November 1988

IT'S HISTORY

Opportunity and Challenge: The Story of BLM is history—to the relief of its authors, Jim Muhn and Hans Stuart. The 318-page paperback book is now at the printer and is scheduled for Bureau-wide distribution in January 1989. A Project Pride initiative, the book will acquaint Bureau employees with their agency and its development and will give the public a better idea of the BLM and its mission.

The Bureau of Land Management has a fascinating history—about the longest and richest history of any federal agency—going back to the formation of federal public lands during the Revolutionary War. But while several historians have written about BLM's predecessor agencies (the General Land Office and the U.S. Grazing Service), few have paid attention to the Bureau since its formation in 1946. In writing about federal land management agencies or natural resource policies, most historians have focused on agencies such as the Forest Service, the National Park Service, or the Bureau of Reclamation.

BLM has long wanted a history of the agency to be written. Several previous attempts to write one have failed. When the Bureau Management Team approved the SC project late last year, Jim and Hans were given the challenge of capturing BLM's history, its people, its mission, and (hopefully) its character—in a book that had to be written, typeset, and delivered to the printer by September 30, 1988. The book had to be long enough to cover highlights in public land management since 1776, including each of BLM's diverse program areas, but short enough to be readable and interesting to its audience.

Doing this proved no easy task. According to Jim Muhn, "Our first decision was what kinds of materials should be included (and excluded) in the book." To capture the variety of work, locations, and people that make up today's BLM, Hans Stuart noted that "we decided to ask employees and retirees from all



Jim Muhn and Hans Stuart

over the Bureau to contribute short articles to the book, which they did."

Employees from all levels of the Bureau—from all programs and job series—wrote about people and events that shaped BLM. Included among these authors were all BLM Directors since Marion Clawson (1948-53), who wrote about the issues they faced as Director and the accomplishments made during their tenure. Director Robert Burford took a personal interest in seeing a history of BLM completed while all of these people were available to contribute to it. Service Center Director Bob Moore provided valuable insights and contacts.

Jim and Hans were given a total of four months apiece to write the history and Peter Doran, who designed and layed out the book, two months. Several people said the job couldn't be done; Assistant Director of Management Services Tom Allen went so far as to bet Service Center Director Bob Moore that it could not be done. "We never found out what the bet was," said Jim and Hans, "but we swallowed hard and said we'd do it."

In the end, working on the project proved both challenging and rewarding. The book was typeset on a Macintosh desktop publishing system (as is this newsletter) within about two weeks, thanks to Peter Doran and Jennifer Reese, who also produced the book's illustrations and graphics. Jan Poorman and Bob Woerner edited the entire manuscript within a four-week period, making it better organized and more readable. Karen Miranda proofread both the Wang and Macintosh versions of the history within two weeks.

Needless to say, this history could not have been written without the support and

encouragement of many BLM employees. The book's authors want to thank all of them and the Bureau Management Team for making it happen.

Editor's note: Hans has recently accepted a job with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Boston. He and his wife, Terry, will be leaving in early November. We will miss a good friend and valued colleague.

EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

"Nothing is simple and alone. We are not separate and alone. The breathing mountains, the living stones, each blade of grass, the clouds, the rain, each star, the beasts, the birds and the invisible spirits of the air - we are all one, indivisible. Nothing that any of us does but affects us all."

Naturalist Frank Waters' statement sums up the experience at the Nature Place Conference Center near Florissant, Colorado, where 40 people from the SC attended an Employee Excellence Seminar the week of October 16.

Most of the attendees had fewer than 5 years SC experience. This seminar helped them gain a broader understanding of BLM's mission and our role in a significant variety of resource programs. SC speakers, including Bob Moore, John Baker, Mary Gaylord, and Ed Dettman, discussed the relationships we have with field offices as well as SC and Bureau organizations. Bill Pulford, Craig District Manager, discussed BLM "Futures" issues while Dick Huff, Colorado SO, and Patti Brunner, Idaho SO, led sessions on self-esteem, stress management, and conflict resolution.

This annual seminar is an opportunity for newer employees to gain a better perspective of BLM and how it functions.

NOMINEE

Tom Gomez, Office Services Chief, is the 1989 SC nominee for the Departmental Training Program. Congratulations, Tom.

NEW SAFETY AND TRAINING OFFICERS

Chuck Marquez, the new Training Officer for the SC and CSO, recently transferred from the U.S. Postal Service in Phoenix, where he developed training programs for the Postal Employee Development Center.

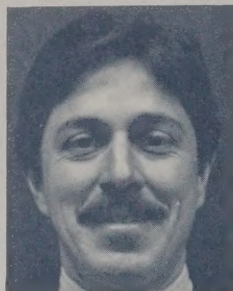
His educational background includes a degree in Music Education at Arizona State University and five year's teaching experience in the Tempe Elementary School District. As a musician he performed in several community orchestras and musical events, including seven years with the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra and one year with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Autonoma in Guadalajara, Mexico. In 1986 he received his M. Ed. in Education Technology at Arizona State University.

Chuck is married and has a daughter, 8, and two sons, 3 and 5. He wishes to thank everyone who has made the transition to Denver such a pleasurable experience.

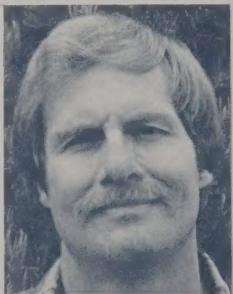
In addition to Chuck, Duane Blamey was recently hired as the SC Safety Manager. Duane comes to us from GSA, where he served as the Regional Safety & Occupational Health Specialist.

Prior to that, he worked for DOL adjudicating worker's compensation claims and for the Postal Service, where he held a number of craft and managerial positions which involved safety and health responsibilities. Duane will be available throughout the Bureau to assist in any safety, worker's compensation, or occupational health related matters.

Originally from Leadville, Colorado (the 2-mile high city), Duane was grateful to BLM for saving him from a GSA transfer to Ft. Worth, Texas, "a fate worse than death". As a single parent, he has two



Chuck Marquez



Duane Blamey

lovely daughters, ages 8 and 11, whom he is raising. In his "spare time" he helps out with his 8 year old's Brownie troop.

Duane has a B.S. from Regis College and has completed many industrial hygiene courses; he plans to pursue additional training in that job-related area. Duane is excited about his new position and looks forward to assisting BLM in any way he can.

For assistance on training or safety matters, call Chuck at 6-6706 and Duane at 6-6402.

I LOVE TO GO A WANDERING

The SC has several big-time hikers in its ranks. Some have climbed, or are in the process of climbing, all of the 14,000-foot peaks in Colorado and one, Mike Garratt, was the first person to climb all 637 of Colorado's "thirteeners". However, there are others at the SC who, while they are avid hikers, stay away from places you can fall off of. Bob Woerner, Vern Reeves, and Chuck Tulloss are three such hikers who are out in the mountains practically every summer weekend.

For those readers interested in hiking but not heroics, there are many beautiful opportunities within two hours of Denver. While trailheads become very busy on weekend afternoons, few hikers go more than three miles and traffic (both cars on roads and hikers on trails) is not a serious problem until 10:00 or 11:00 a.m.

Probably the most beautiful area close to Denver, as well as the most accessible, is the Indian Peaks Wilderness northwest of Boulder. Each valley going from the Continental Divide toward the east offers its own variety of beautiful lakes, flowers, and rock formations. Some are short walks or hikes such as Lake Isabella (2 1/2 to 3 miles); hikes of 10 to 15 miles are also available, including hiking trips on the tundra along the Continental Divide.

Even casual hikers can hike to the top of 13,000 and 14,000-foot mountains. Most peaks in Colorado have at least one relatively easy walkup route. Lightning is the most serious hazard and can generally be avoided by getting an early start. Just be sure to carry warm clothing, rain gear, and common-sense items (adequate food and water, first aid kit, etc.).

Readers who want more details on where to go for some good hiking, and who don't mind getting a few war stories in the process, should talk to Bob, Vern, or Chuck. They will be happy to help you.

FOUNDATION

The Public Lands Foundation, composed primarily of BLM retirees, circulates a periodical entitled *The Public Lands Monitor*. According to their masthead, their purpose is to "... support effective and wise use of the public lands and natural resources under the administration of the BLM, ... encourage optimum implementation of FLPMA, ... and (use) professional career employees throughout BLM including top management positions."

If you are interested in reviewing their September issue, contact your Division secretary for a copy.

Of additional interest is a register of BLM retirees which they publish. If you wish to contact a former crony, you can likely get the address from this register, which Cathy Davis has in the Director's office.

LEAVE EXCHANGE

Congress recently approved a 5-year extension of the act enabling employees to receive or donate leave in emergency situations. A bulletin is being distributed at SC describing the program in detail.

Wanda Harryman, SC-610, John Ver Sluis, CSO, and Gerald Larson, Canon City DO, have requested leave donations. If you have annual leave which you wish to donate it will be used to substitute for leave without pay which these employees had to take because of personal or family health emergencies.

For more details on how to donate leave, or to apply for emergency leave, contact Bob Walton, SC-630.

NEGOTIATIONS

Labor-management negotiations continue this week over revisions to the three-year Federal Labor Contract. Of particular interest to all SC employees are discussions relating to the flexitime proposal. Other matters, including the grievance procedure, are also slated for talks.